

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01397 290932Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-07 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00  
USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 MCT-01 SSO-00 PPT-01  
SCA-01 SCS-03 INRE-00 /095 W  
-----122766 290941Z /16

O 290930Z ZFF 3

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEGUEWE 4864  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1397

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, QA  
SUBJECT: HIJACKING OF GULF AIR AIRCRAFT  
REF: DOHA 796 (NOTAL)

1. GOB ASST. UNDERSECRETARY FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND GULF  
AIR BOARD MEMBER, SHAIKH ISA BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA,  
CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT GULF AIR FLIGHT NO. 122 LONDON/  
DUBAI/MUSCAT HAS BEEN HIJACKED AND DIVERTED TO DOHA AIRPORT.  
ACCORDING TO SHAIKH ISA THE FOLLOWING FACTS ARE KNOWN:  
THE HIJACKER IS A SINGLE MALE, NATIONALITY UNKNOWN, WHO  
IS CARRYING ONE HAND GRENADE. IT IS THOUGHT THAT HE  
BOARDED THE PLANE IN DUBAI.

2. HE IS DESCRIBED AS BEING "VERY NERVOUS AND INEXPERIENCED",  
SO MUCH SO THAT PILOT WAS ABLE TO BROADCAST URGENT  
APPEALS THROUGHOUT THE AREA ABOUT THE HIJACKING. ALL  
REGIONAL AIRPORTS WERE CLOSED THIS MORNING AS A RESULT,  
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BUT FOR REASONS NOT CLEAR TO SHAIKH ISA DOHA AIRPORT  
ALLOWED PLANE TO LAND. THE QATARI ARMED FORCES HAVE  
SURROUNDED THE AIRCRAFT, "TO CLOSELY" ACCORDING TO  
SHAIKH ISA, AND THERE IS CONCERN THAT THE HIJACKER,  
INCREASINGLY NERVOUS, WILL PANIC.

3. MOST OF THE PASSENGERS ARE OF OMANI NATIONALITY, INCLUDING THE SON AND DAUGHTER OF THE OMANI MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, ABDUL HAFIZ SALIM RAJAB, WHO IS ALSO DIRECTOR OF GULF AIR.

4. SHAIKH ISA ASSURED EMBASSY HE IS URGENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN NATIONALITY OF PASSENGERS, BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICANS ON BOARD. WE ARE URGENTLY TRYING TO GET MANIFEST DETAILS FROM GULF AIR HEADQUARTERS WHICH IS IN UNDERSTANDABLY CHAOTIC CONDITION NOW. LONDON MIGHT HAVE BETTER LUCK. GULF AIR MANAGING DIRECTOR SALIM BIN NASSIR AL-DUSAIDI HAS DEPARTED BAHRAIN FOR DOHA BUT PERMISSION OF THE AMIR OF QATAR FOR HIS PLANE TO LAND HAS NOT YET BEEN FORTHCOMING.

5. MOTIVE SHAIKH ISA SAYS THAT NO DEMANDS HAVE YET BEEN FORTHCOMING AS FAR AS HE IS AWARE. HIS ASSUMPTION IS THAT MAN, HAVING NOTED RECENT HIJACKING ATTEMPT IN KUWAIT, WILL ASK FOR MONEY.

6. PRESIDENT OF BAHRAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES MOHAMMAD JALAL WHO HAPPENED TO BE WITH AMBASSADOR AS WE CONFIRMED THIS INFORMATION SAID THAT RUMOR ALREADY IS AROUND TOWN THAT THE HIJACKING HAD BEEN ORGANIZED BY FORMER AMIR OF QATAR, RESIDENT IN DUBAI, AND THAT THE MOTIVE IS THUS RELATED TO INTERNAL QATARI POLITICS.

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7. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO GARNER MORE INFORMATION AND WILL REPORT AS AND WHEN WE SUCCEED.  
CLUVERIUS

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANAMA01397  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DOHA 796  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, QA, PINT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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